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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
9 April 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 0530 EST)

1. South Vietnamese Marines have turned back a heavy Communist tank and infantry attack against Fire Support Base Pedro just west of Quang Tri city. The enemy has resumed heavy artillery attacks throughout Military Region (MR) 1, particularly against South Vietnamese artillery support bases west of Hue in Thua Thien Province. A small artillery base south of Da Nang reportedly has been overrun while heavy fighting is underway at a nearby position. Bad weather is severely hampering air support throughout MR-1. The Communists evidently are making widespread use of armor in these current attacks, and sensors indicate that even more artillery is being deployed south of the DMZ.

2. In MR-2, a Communist rocket and sapper attack on the Cam Ranh Bay logistical facility caused US casualties of four killed and 20 wounded. Only minor damage was inflicted on the facility itself, however. Almost simultaneously enemy sappers attacked a cargo freighter in Da Nang harbor. These attacks suggest increased Communist emphasis on logistical support targets.

3. There was an increase in enemy shelling and ground attacks in MRs 3 and 4, but no significant fighting has been reported. On 8 April in northwestern Tay Ninh Province, a Communist ambush inflicted heavy losses on a South Vietnamese convoy moving southward on Route 22, including five field guns and 12 armored vehicles. As in the northern section of the country, poor weather is severely hampering air support operations.

4. A US B-52 was hit by a surface-to-air missile while on a bombing mission northwest of Dong Ha, but recovered successfully to Da Nang Airbase. Initial

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investigation indicates minor damage to portions of the fuselage, but there were no injuries among the crewmen.

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